

The Status Report

July 2009 | Volume 6, Issue 1

Charles F. Hurley Building, 19 Staniford St., 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02114
Web: www.mass.gov/women Phone: 617-626-6520 E-Mail: mcsww@state.ma.us



Cape Cod and Islands Commission on the Status of Women Inaugurated



Back Row (L-R): MCSW Chair Greer Swiston, MCSW Commissioner Donna Finneran, CCICSW Commissioners Janet Joakim, Cheryl Osimo, Clerk of Courts Scott Nickerson, CCICSW Commissioners Janet Ulhar-Tinney, Barbara Gookin, Catherine King, Pam Pollock, and Jan Barton.

Front Row (L-R): CCICSW Commissioners Susan Kadar, Deborah Thompson, Elaine Cawley Weintraub, Helen Bresnahan, Evelyn Young, and MCSW Commissioner Elizabeth Houlihan.

Not Pictured: Emily Gold

On Monday, June 15th the new Commissioners of the Cape Cod and Islands Commission on the Status of Women (CCICSW) were sworn in during a ceremony at the Barnstable County Superior Courthouse attended by regional council participants Kristen Whitfield and Susan Rohrbach, Barnstable County Clerk of Courts Scott Nickerson, along with several of the MCSW's Commissioners and friends, relatives and colleagues of the women appointed.

The CCICSW was established by legislation in January of 2009, and calls for the board of thirteen commissioners to hear input, collect data, and propose solutions for concerns of the women in the Cape Cod and the Islands area.

The appointees were selected from a large number of highly qualified and impressive candidates representing strength and diversity in terms of geography, age, professional background and personal experiences. They share a common commitment to the improvement of the status of women within Cape Cod and the Islands.

The newly inaugurated Commissioners are currently collecting written testimonies of residents of the Cape Cod and the Islands area in order to have input from the public and identify problems that the Commission can focus their efforts in resolving. Testimony may be e-mailed to the CCICSW at capeandislandswomenscommission@gmail.com.

Inside This Issue

Chair's Corner

2

Upcoming Events

3

Chair's Corner

It is with great sadness that I say "Goodbye" to our wonderful staff here at the MCSW office.

As with many Commissions around the Commonwealth, FY10 will see changes in the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. One of those changes, as a result of a 72% reduction in funding from the State, is that we no longer can keep our Executive Director, Kira Dunn, nor our talented Outreach Coordinator, Jill Ashton, our Program Coordinator, Kim Sebastiao nor devoted Administrative Assistant, Darlene Kelter. They all did a great job here at the Commission while they were here and we know that any organization that chooses to hire them would be gaining some great talent. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

However, we are reminded that regardless of state funding, and regardless of permanent staff, we, as a Commission, have work to do. An amazing precedent was set in 1998 when the House and Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts *legislated* the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women into existence with the explicit dictate (i.e. written into law) to "conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women and shall be guided by the tenets of the Platform for Action of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in September, 1995." A commitment was made to all women in Massachusetts.



*Greer Tan Swiston
MCSW Chair*

The 19 volunteer women appointed to the MCSW by the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President and the Caucus of Women Legislators, are committed to carrying out the responsibilities of the MCSW, albeit a bit slower than we have in the past given our recent cut in resources, but with as much commitment and passion as we had sworn to do when we first accepted our positions.

It seems that we have been talking about a lot of challenges lately. Facing challenges, embracing challenges and celebrating those who have overcome challenges.

"That which does not destroy us, makes us stronger" — Friedrich Nietzsche.

With everyone's continued support, interest and participation, FY10 will see MCSW emerge stronger than ever. July starts a new year for us and a new adventure.

Have a great summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "G. Tan Swiston". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Greer Tan Swiston, MCSW Chair

Take Action. Get Educated. Get Involved.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in organizations focusing on women's issues across the Commonwealth you can start by attending any one of the number of events and meetings taking place in the coming weeks.

Tuesday, July 7 (12-1:30 p.m.): Work-Life Balance in the Legal Profession

Location: Burns & Levinson LLP, 125 Summer St. (Boston)

Details: The Mothers' Forum Committee of the Women's Bar Association is hosting a panel for discussion about balancing your legal career and family obligations. Whether you are male or female, juggling now or trying to figure out how you will do it in the future, this program is for you. For more information go to www.womensbar.org.

Friday, July 24 (8 a.m.): 5th Annual Girl Scouts Golf Classic "Fore the Girls"

Location: William Devine Golf Course, 1 Circuit Drive, Franklin Park (Dorchester)

Details: Support the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts at the 5th Annual Girl Scouts Golf Classic, "Fore the Girls". Register as a foursome or as an individual. Pairs and individuals will be placed to make teams of 4. Team prizes and individual awards presented at lunch. For further information and registration, please visit www.girlscoutseasternmass.org.

Thursday, August 13 (12:30-2:30 p.m.): Exploring Certification

Location: Your personal computer

Details: The Center for Women and Enterprise invites you to learn how to grow your business through large volume contracts with fortune 500 companies, colleges and universities, and some government entities. If your business is 51% woman owned, operated, managed, and controlled you could qualify for this vital certification and gain access or expand your network in corporate America and with women business owners nation-wide. The CWE Certification Specialist will discuss the requirements, benefits, and process of becoming certified. This is a complimentary online workshop but please RSVP by either calling 617-532- 0225 or email swinters@cweonline.org. For additional information and events, please visit cweonline.org.

Saturday, August 29 (8 a.m.): Scituate Beach Association 2nd Annual Charity 5K Charity Road Race

Location: Scituate Beach Association Ball Field, Corner of Otis Rd. and Turner Rd. (Scituate)

Details: The 2009 Scituate Beach Association Charity Road Race will be held on August 29th to benefit the [Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism](http://DougFlutieJr.FoundationforAutism). The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism was established by NFL quarterback Doug Flutie and his wife, Laurie, in honor of their son, Doug, Jr. who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. They have been raising funds for autism since 1998 and established this charity in 2000 and in total have raised over ten million dollars for this cause. For registration information, please visit www.sbreadrace.com

Saturday, September 12 (10 am): Women Veterans' Expo

Location: Shaw's Center, 1 Lexington Ave. (Brockton)

Details: VA Boston Healthcare System's first-ever Women Veterans' Expo, featuring: educational materials and lectures; health promotion activities; disease prevention screenings; and information on such topics as employment, support, and education. And, to add the "fun factor", vendors will be on site to offer hair and beauty tips, relaxation methods, and more! For additional information please visit www.boston.va.gov.

Sunday, September 13 (8 a.m.): Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

Location: Hopkinton to Boston

Details: The Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk is a one day event dedicated to conquering all forms of cancer. With five routes to choose from that range from the full Boston Marathon course to a 3-mile option, it's a great event for the whole family. Since the first Walk in 1989, participants have raised more than \$60 million to support cancer research and care at Dana-Farber. For more information visit www.jimmyfundwalk.org.

Wednesday, September 30 (5:30 p.m.): 22nd Annual Tribute to Abigail Adams Awards

Location: Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel (Boston)

Details: The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus introduced the Tribute to Abigail Adams in 1988 to recognize six Massachusetts women leaders. Award recipients are women who have demonstrated through their work and/or their community activism an outstanding commitment to the realization of equal political, economic, and social rights for women. For additional information, please visit www.mwpc.org.

For even more upcoming events please visit our online calendar at www.mass.gov/women/calendar/upcoming.htm.

Do you have an event you would like to see on this list in an upcoming issue of The Status Report? E-mail the details to mcsw@state.ma.us and we will do our best to include your event in our next issue and/or on the MCSW's website calendar.

Commission Officers & Members

Greer Tan Swiston, Chair, Newton
Pam Malumphy, Vice Chair, Pittsfield
Elizabeth H. Houlihan, Treasurer, Falmouth
Donna Finneran, Secretary, Mattapan

Ruth Bramson, Dover
Linda Cavaoli, Worcester
Chris Chanyasulkit, Brookline
Helen Corbett, Middleton
Marisa DeFranco, Middleton
Deborah DiMasi, Boston
Stacy Dixon, Randolph
Stephanie Everett, Mattapan
Marianne Fleckner, Westford
Catherine Greene, Brighton
Elizabeth Hart, Malden
Lucy Hartry, Florence
Joanne Fitzgerald McCrea, Salem
Angela Menino, Hyde Park
Ruth Nemzoff, West Newton



19 Staniford St., 6th FL
Boston, MA 02114

Phone:

617.626.6520

Fax:

617.626.6530

E-Mail:

mcsw@state.ma.us

Web site:

www.mass.gov/women

**Do you have questions or comments about this
newsletter? If so, please contact**

MCSW@state.ma.us

Member of the

